

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Pending Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A plastic zipper comprising first and second interlockable parts, said first interlockable part having a male profile and said second interlockable part having a female profile, wherein said male profile is generally arrow-shaped, said female profile comprises inwardly facing first and second hooks and outwardly extending first and second wings, said first and second wings being sloped so as to guide said male profile towards a center plane of said female profile when said male profile impinges on either of said first and second wings during movement toward said female profile, and wherein said inwardly facing first and second hooks, when in a relaxed state, form an opening having a width less than a width of said arrow-shaped male profile, enabling said first and second hooks to latch said arrow-shaped profile to provide an interlocked state of said first and second interlockable parts.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The zipper as recited in claim 1, wherein said female profile further comprises first and second walls, wherein said first wall, said first hook and said first wing are integrally formed, and wherein said second wall, said second hook and said second wing are integrally formed.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The zipper as recited in claim 2, wherein said first wing has an apex having a lateral offset from a center plane of said female profile which is greater than a maximum lateral offset from said center plane of said first wall.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The zipper as recited in claim 2, wherein said first wing has an apex having a lateral offset from a center plane of said female profile which is greater than a lateral offset from said center plane

of a junction of a rear surface of said first wing and a side surface of said first wall.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The zipper as recited in claim 2, [[1,]] wherein said first hook and said first wing extend in generally opposite directions from a distal portion of said first wall.

Claim 6 (Original): The zipper as recited in claim 1, wherein said second interlockable part comprises a base, said first hook has a first surface facing said first interlockable part and said first wing has a second surface facing said first interlockable part, said first and second surfaces being neither parallel nor perpendicular to a plane of said base.

Claim 7 (Original): The zipper as recited in claim 6, wherein said second surface is closer to parallel with said base plane than is said first surface.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A plastic zipper comprising first and second fastener strips, wherein said first fastener strip comprises a first base and a male member projecting from said first base and having a profile with an expanded head, and said second fastener strip comprises a second base and a female structure projecting from said second base and having a profile with a groove for receiving said expanded head of said male member, and wherein said female structure comprises first and second generally T-shaped sides which, when in a relaxed state, define ~~defining~~ an opening having a width less than a width of said expanded head, enabling said first and second generally T-shaped sides to latch said male member to provide an interlocked state of said first and second interlockable parts, wherein each of said first and second generally T-shaped sides has a guide surface for guiding said male member toward said opening when said male member impinges on said guide surface, said guide surface

having an apex which is laterally offset from a center plane of said female structure by an amount which is greater than the lateral offset of an outer junction, said outer junction being located where an undersurface of a transverse portion meets a side surface of a stem portion of a T-shaped side, and each of said guide surfaces having a distance from said second base that increases with increasing distance from said center plane of said female structure.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The zipper as recited in claim 8, wherein said transverse portion and said stem portions portion of each of said first and second generally T-shaped sides of said female structure are integrally formed.

Claim 10 (Original): The zipper as recited in claim 8, wherein said apex of said guide surface has a lateral offset from said center plane which is greater than a maximum lateral offset from said center plane of said corresponding stem portion.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a plastic zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, wherein said first fastener strip comprises a male member having a profile with an expanded head and said second fastener strip comprises a female structure having a profile with a groove for receiving said expanded head of said male member, and wherein said female structure comprises a base, first and second walls extending from said base, first and second hooks extending from said first and second walls respectively toward a center plane of said female structure, and first and second wings extending from said first and second walls respectively away from said center plane, said first and second hooks, when in a relaxed state, forming an opening having a width less than a width of said expanded head of said male member, enabling said first and second hooks to latch said male member to provide an interlocked state of said

first and second interlockable parts, and said first and second wings being sloped so as to guide said male member towards said center plane of said female structure when said male member impinges on either of said first and second wings during movement toward said female structure.

Claim 12 (Original): The package as recited in claim 11, wherein said first wall, said first hook and said first wing are integrally formed.

Claim 13 (Original): The package as recited in claim 11, wherein said first wing has an apex having a lateral offset from said center plane which is greater than a maximum lateral offset from said center plane of said first wall.

Claim 14 (Original): The package as recited in claim 11, wherein said first wing has an apex having a lateral offset from said center plane which is greater than a lateral offset from said center plane of a junction of a rear surface of said first wing and a side surface of said first wall.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 11, wherein said first hook and said first wing extend in generally opposite directions from a distal portion of said first wall.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 11, wherein said first hook has a surface facing said first fastener strip and said guide surface of said first wing faces said first fastener strip, said surface of said first hook and said guide surface of said first wing being neither parallel nor perpendicular to a plane of said base.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 16, wherein said guide surface of said first wing is closer to parallel with said base plane than is said ~~first~~ surface of said first hook.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a plastic zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, wherein said first fastener strip comprises a first base and a male member projecting from said first base and having a profile with an expanded head and said second fastener strip comprises a second base and a female structure projecting from said second base and having a profile with a groove for receiving said expanded head of said male member, and wherein said female structure comprises first and second generally T-shaped sides defining an opening having a width less than a width of said expanded head of said male member, enabling said generally T-shaped sides to latch said male member to provide an interlocked state of said first and second fastener strips, and [[,]] wherein each of said first and second generally T-shaped sides has a guide surface for guiding said male member toward said opening when said male member impinges on said guide surface, said guide surface having an apex which is laterally offset from a center plane of said female structure by an amount which is greater than the lateral offset of an outer junction, said outer junction being located where an undersurface of a transverse portion meets a side surface of a stem portion of a T-shaped side, and each of said guide surfaces having a distance from said second base that increases with increasing distance from said center plane of said female structure.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The package as recited in claim 18, wherein said transverse portion and said stem ~~portions~~ portion of each of said first and second generally T-shaped sides of said female structure are integrally formed.

Claim 20 (Original): The package as recited in claim 18, wherein said apex of said guide surface has a lateral offset from said center plane which is greater than a maximum lateral offset from said center plane of said corresponding stem portion.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A plastic zipper comprising first and second fastener strips, wherein said first fastener strip comprises a male member having a profile with an expanded head and said second fastener strip comprises a female structure having a profile with a groove for receiving said expanded head of said male member, and wherein said female structure comprises first and second hooks extending toward a center plane and defining, when in a relaxed state, an opening which communicates with said groove and having a width less than a width of said expanded head of said male member, enabling said first and second hooks to latch said male member to provide an interlocked state of said first and second fastener strips, and first and second wings extending away from said center plane, said first hook and said first wing being integrally formed and supported in a region intermediate the respective ends of said first hook and said first wing, and said second hook and said second wing being integrally formed and supported in a region intermediate the respective ends of said second hook and said second wing, said first and second wings having respective surfaces for guiding an impinging male member toward said opening during movement of said male member toward said female structure.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A plastic zipper comprising first and second fastener strips, wherein said first fastener strip comprises a male member having a profile with a base and an expanded head and said second fastener strip comprises a female structure having a profile with a groove for receiving said expanded head of said male member, and wherein said female structure comprises a base, first and second walls extending from said base, first and second hooks extending from said first and second walls respectively toward a center plane, and first and second target apices located away from said center plane, said first and second hooks, when in a relaxed state, forming an opening having a width less than a width of said expanded head of said male member,

enabling said first and second hooks to latch said male member to provide an interlocked state of said first and second fastener strips, and the distance between said first and second target apices defining a target width, wherein said zipper has a ratio of target width to zipper height substantially equal to or greater than unity when said zipper is closed.

Claim 23 (Original): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end and a plastic zipper as recited in claim 22 attached to said mouth.

REMARKS

In ¶ 1 of the Office Action, Figures 1-3 were objected to as needing a legend such as "Prior Art". In response to this objection, new corrected formal drawings incorporating the needed legends are being submitted herewith.

In ¶ 3 of the Office Action, the examiner rejected claims 5, 9, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response to this rejection of claims 9 and 19, claims 9 and 19 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. In response to the rejection of claims 5 and 15, claims 5 and 15 have been amended to clarify that first hook and first wing extend in opposite directions from a distal portion of the first wall.

In ¶ 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-16, and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either Scheibner '506 or Scheibner '702. The Applicants traverse this ground of rejection for the following reasons.